

# Turpitude

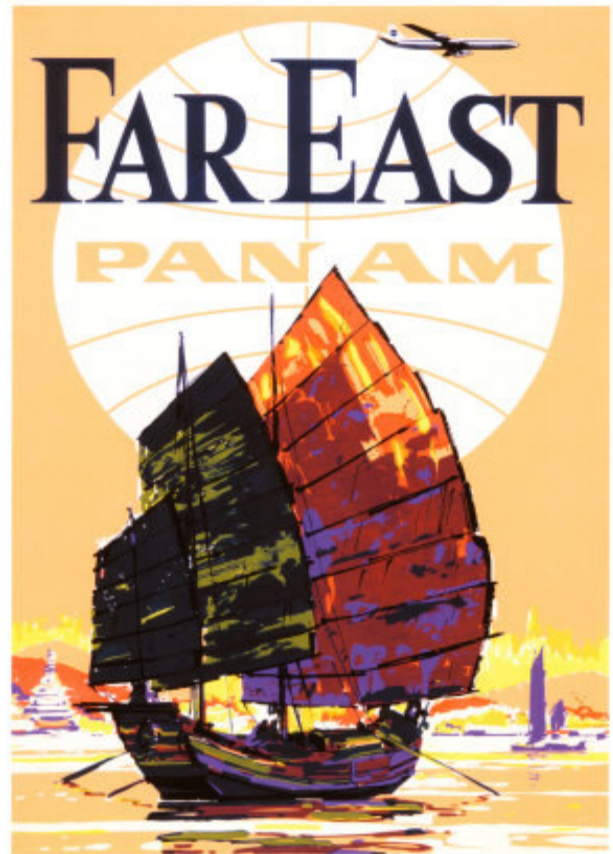
Slanapa 461  
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Sue just walked out the door! She's off on her first trip alone since her knee surgery last month. Granted, she is only going to drive (!) to the grocery store, but it is a big deal. She has felt the loss of mobility quite keenly. As I said last month, the operation was a success. She has done well in physical therapy and is regaining the use of her right leg for walking. Now the left leg is the problem because it tried to compensate for her "rolling" gait for the past two years. She has an exercise bicycle ~ her current efforts are to be able to turn the pedals one full turn. She's been real good throughout and has been a pleasure to help.

I went to the national meeting of the American Topical Association. The convention was held in Portland. Oh, the ATA is a group of stamp collectors who collect, not by country, but by topics. They are generally looked down upon by the "real" run of philatelists. There was no comparison between this and the recent American Philatelic Society which was also held in Portland; the ATA had very few meetings, only one or two classes, and poor exhibits. I mean, for a world class show, well, it just wasn't.

My little project for the local stamp club has been finished successfully. I designed a 75th anniversary



stamp for them, they accepted the design, and had two hundred of them made up at zazzle.com. Zazzle is one of the places you can go on the web to have your design put on sticky-labels that are actually good for postage. By the way, collectors of US stamps avidly hunt for this kind of stamp as there are so very few of them made.

BOB: How nice to see a contribution from you. I'm glad you took the time. // On guessing the names of the other movies to go with *Black*, would they be *Blacker* and *Blackest*? Or *White* and *Grey*? Nothing else comes to mind. Perhaps my little niggling query will be answered by the other Slans. // Chris is showing a bright star on his forehead; congratulations, Dad, we both know it's more heredity than environment. 'Twould be great to have him minor in English. Only thing better would be a minor in History. // Sue and I had the opportunity to see Cirque du Soleil a few months back. A great experience. It was fun to see them in person, although they came across better on television, what with the close-up cameras and all. // What do you do at Bubonicon and World Fantasy Con? Do you go as a Famous Author? or BNF? or just as a quiet old man who wants to see old friends? You can fit any of the above roles, and I wonder what you

would chose after all these years.

Arrgh! I hate it when I get an “orphan” line ~~ you know, one line left in a paragraph that has to go on to the next page. It used to really bother me when I was a printer, it’s irksome when I write, and even distracting when I read.

## FLY TO SOUTH SEA ISLES



*Via* **PAN AMERICAN**

NED: Hokey Smokey, Ned; your T=I/V musings leave me foundering. I got a BS in math so I must have known some math at one time or another. But the years and depression and PTSD have left me with very low ability to grasp abstract ideas. // The non-traditional marriages will end with someone married to a carrot. That’s the logical endpoint (unless you allow marriage to a rock). // I would like to have a poetic license. I just might print some up. Want one?

JERRY: I haven’t watched any of the new Battlestar Galactica ~ and precious few of the old ~ but I did perk up at your reference to Deep Space Nine as a show to which one would compare another show. (Sorry about that sentence: it wrote itself, not my fault.) Was Deep Space Nine really a good show? Should I hunt it up and watch it? I probably only have to knock on the door of the Goble Video Archives to get a copy. // I find it inconceivable that someone

not in a political party would be allowed to vote for who that party’s candidate will be. Duh. // I certainly share your admiration for Catherine Zeta-Jones. Sigh, what a hunk. I have only seen her in *Chicago*. You decried her not ever appearing in a major film. It seems to me that *Chicago* was a major film. Does it get shunted aside because it was a musical? Just when I was complaining to all who would listen that no good movies were being made, especially musicals, along it came and stopped me cold. What a great show. // Wow, Jerry, you mentioned another movie that I’ve seen, *Oh, Brother, Where Art Thou?* I enjoyed this immensely ~ in particular the sound track. I thank the movie for introducing me to Alison Krauss. // In regard to your comments on Florida’s taxes, do you recall a time when states had either an income tax or a sales tax? Oregon is one of the few states still without a sales tax ~ and I have always believed that they were correct in not having one. The other day I woke up and out of the blue said to myself, I’m in favor of a sales tax now. Caught me by surprise, I’ll tell you. If we get one, which is more likely all the time, I doubt if they will lower the income tax. With the sales tax we will catch a few of the tourists coming through the state (they are our main industry now) and I believe that the rich are too adept at finagling their books to pay income tax properly, so perhaps we will catch



them with sales tax. I don't like the idea of a sales tax being "regressive" (is that the word, meaning affects the lower classes more), but we will not put a sales tax on food. I would also support not paying a sales tax on used items such as one would buy at the Goodwill. // I empathize with you on getting rid of your fanzines. That's a lot of memories. If you have more than Tim wants, the University of Iowa is still anxious for more fanzines and will pay shipping costs ~ they are the ones that got my fanzines and they have done a lot with the collection: much of it is accessible on line all ready.

BOB: Yousa, Yousa, you and your snapbrim must have cut quite a swath at the authors' soirees. It must have been nice to have a chance to do something like that. // It's a wonder that Inagadda didn't put spikes in her eyes at the climactic moment. // Even when I was a kid, I knew that the Dick Tracy art was bad. And the same goes for Little Arfin' Nanny. // Speaking of old television shows, do you wish copies of some Amos & Andy or Have Gun Will Travel? I just got a bunch of them. // One day about four weeks ago, I woke up one morning and decided to quit drinking coffee. I had headaches for a day or two, then no problems. I think I am getting ready subconsciously for our upcoming Live Food Juice Feast diet ~ not "diet," but rather "way of life." It involves pounds of green things run through a juicer and ... that's all! It's supposed to cure diabetics. // The mothball fleet that was near where I grew up wasn't used for anything that I know of. It was just sort of there, something to be gawked at in passing. // Thank you for your comments praising my reproduction and art. Sue and her real estate business get the credit for the great printer that we have, a Xerox 8400, and most of my art comes from rambling about the internet. But I do thank you. // What's this I hear about you dropping out of SLANapa? Let us hope it is a vile rumor with no substance to it!

DEE: Congratulations on your novel. Fan fiction is really no different than "real" fiction, when it comes to giving "birth" to it. Writing 67K words is a wow. I could never do it. Oh, I *might* have done it when I was younger, but back then I had all the time in the world and I would get around to it sooner or later; well, it's later now and I never did. // It will be interesting to see what kind of a President Obama will be. I'm pretty sure he'll get elected, even without

my vote. And part of me, too, is looking for real change; I hope we get it in a good way. // I didn't read about the Florida teacher and his magic trick. What was the basis for the complaint?



DALE: The Bonsai Club has gone along really very well. I've been to three meetings so far. They have all been entertaining and educational, lots of hands on stuff. The only problem with the meetings has been in my head. Psychologically, I find it difficult to be around that many strangers. I have missed a couple of the meetings because that particular night I just couldn't face it. The stamp club has been more of the same, but there I found a friend (who's a dealer and has a couple of tables of stamps for sale) who lets me sit with him ~ so I know someone and have a safe place to sit, and through him I formally met the officers and many of the members. I don't miss many of their meetings. Why, I even went to a Salem Stamp Society Board of Directors' meeting this month, to tout my designs for a new logo/stamp.

FRANK: So sorry to hear about AnnaJo's eye. I find it difficult to imagine surgery on one's eye. They would have to fill me full of dope to do it. // Hey, TanKon is coming up in just a few weeks; I can hardly wait!!!!

Until that time, Mike